have agreed to provide loan assistance of Yen 9.244 billion (approximately Rs. 100 crores) and not the grant-cum-loan for developing the tourism infrastructure at places connected with the life of Lord Buddha only in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The sub-components of the project include strengthening of roads and bridges along the National and State Highways in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, setting up of wayside amenities/ hotels, augmentation of water supply/ electricity, import of cars/coaches, etc.

(b) The loan assistance of Rs. 100 crores would be provided against the total project cost of Rs. 174.58 crores. The cost of sub-components of the project in the State of Bihar is estimated at Rs. 98.64 crores and for Uttar Pradesh Rs. 75.94 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Central assistance for construction of all-weather Jetty at Elephanta

*197. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Minister of Tourism had made a commitment to bear fifty per cent cost by the Central Government for the construction of an all-weather Jetty at Elephanta; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government in respect of the above commitment?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) A former Minister is understood to have indicated his willingness to consider some financial assistance for the project.

(b) Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned Rs. 10.50 lakhs for strengthening of a Jetty at Elephanta during the Sixth Five Year Plan. Maharashtra Government have now come with a proposal for assistance to meet fifty per cent of the cost for a new Jetty to be built at a cost of Rs. 03.08 crores. It is not possible to sanction another Jetty at Elephanta owing to the high cost of the project in relation to limited funds available for such projects.

Import of milk products

*198. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were commercial imports of milk products during 1988-89 despite an increase in the annual milk production in the country as compared to 1987-88;

(b) whether the per capita milk production during 1990-91 has gone up to warrant exports of milk powder by the NDDB; and

(c) whether it is a fact that NDDB is planning to import milk powder again for 1991-92 to meet its requirements for Delhi and Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Following the severe drought during the year 1987, the levels of milk procurement during the year 1988-89 were not sufficient to meet the increased needs of liquid milk marketing. Commercial import of milk powder was, therefore, undertaken to bridge the gap between procurement and marketing.

(b) The export of milk powder has been allowed to enable National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to earn foreign exchange for the import of palmolein for use in the market intervention operation of NDDB.

(c) No request for import of milk powder has been received from NDDB.

Amendment of Consumer Protection Act

*199. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand from various quarters to amend the Consumer Protection Act of 1986;

(b) whether Government have received a number of representations in this regard;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to make Consumer Protection Act more effective?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The matter was considered in the Central Consumer Protection Council and on its recommendations a Working Group has been constituted *vide* order dated 7.1.1991 to consider these suggestions. The Working Group has been asked to give its Report within four months.

Agricultural education in the country

*200. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agricultural Universities and Agricultural Colleges in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to make agricultural education as mass education in the country; and

(c) if so, what are the future plans of agricultural education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Sir, There are 26 State Agricultural Universities and 95 Agricultural Colleges in the country.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

गांव को सड़कों के साथ जोड़ना

@1100 डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :
श्री बलराम सिंह यादव :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश के अधिकांश गांव सड़कों से जुड़े हुए नहीं हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो 1990 के अंत तक संपूर्ण देश में कुल कितने प्रतिशत गांव सड़कों से जुड़े हुए थे ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों को सड़कों से जोड़ने के लिए कोई समय-बद्ध योजना बनाई है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्योरा क्या है और यदि ऐसी कोई योजना नहीं बनाई गई है तो इसके क्या कारण हैं तथा सरकार इस दिशा में कब तक निर्णय करेगी ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जयन्तीलाल वीरचन्द भाई शाह): (क) व (ख) जी नहीं। यह अनुमान लगाया गया है कि देश भर में 1500 या इससे अधिक की जनसंख्या वाले 90 प्रतिशत गांवों, 1000 से 1500 तक की आबादी वाले 68 प्रतिशत गांवों और 1000 से कम की जनसंख्या वाले 36 प्रतिशत गांवों को सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के अंत तक सम्पर्क सड़कों से जोड़ा गया है। 1990 के अंत तक सम्पर्क सड़कों से जोड़े गए गांव अनुमानतः लगभग 50 प्रतिशत है।

@पूर्वतः अतारांकित प्रश्न सं० 451, 27 फरवरी, 1991 से स्थानान्तरित।